

LOCAL VETERANS DAY ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Four Columbia Public School District students are winners of the annual Veterans Day essay contest sponsored by the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital.

Open to junior and senior high students in the Columbia district, entries were reviewed by a language arts teacher at each school prior to submission. VA staff members judged and determined the winning essays. Cash prizes from donated funds were awarded to the winners.

This year's winners are [Shirley Zhang](#), West Junior High School (first place); [Emily Miller](#), West Junior High School (second place); [Graham Ratermann](#), West Junior High School (third place) and [Mariah Miranda](#), Hickman High School (honorable mention).

For more information, contact L. Stephen Gaither, Public Affairs Officer, at 573-814-6308.
Release Date: (11/14/2011)

TRUMAN VA TO DEDICATE RELOCATED FORT LEONARD WOOD CLINIC

COLUMBIA, Mo. – The new relocated Fort Leonard Wood VA Outpatient Clinic in Waynesville, Mo. will be dedicated at a 12:00 noon ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 10.

Management officials from the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital, Columbia, will conduct the brief ceremony outside the new clinic, located at 700 GW Lane in Waynesville. The local event will include a ribbon cutting conducted by the Waynesville/St. Robert Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors. Tours of the facility will follow the ceremony.

The Fort Leonard Wood clinic was the first of seven community based clinics managed by Truman VA and opened in 1998. The other clinics are located in Jefferson City, Kirksville, Mexico, Osage Beach, Saint James and Sedalia. All of the clinics offer primary care and mental health services. The new Waynesville clinic will provide audiology and physical therapy services as well. More than 35,000 Veterans are treated by Truman VA and its clinics.

For more information, contact L. Stephen Gaither, Public Affairs Officer, at 573-814-6308.
Release Date: (11/08/2011)

TRUMAN VA TO CONDUCT HOMELESS VETERANS SUMMIT

Truman VA's Homeless program officials will unveil a local five-year plan at the 2011 Homeless Summit.

Who: Social service agencies and organizations involved as community partners with Homeless Veterans programs conducted by staff at the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital

What: Homeless Veterans Summit

When: Friday, October 21
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Where: VA Vet Center
4040 Rangeline Road, Suite 105
Columbia, Missouri

Why:

- 1) To provide education on the services and programs provided to homeless Veterans
- 2) To provide information on our local, regional and national "VA 5-Year Plan" to end homelessness among Veterans
- 3) To network with other agencies that provide services to homeless Veterans
- 4) To obtain feedback about Truman VA programs for homeless Veterans
- 5) To facilitate discussion around the needs of homeless Veterans

Release Date: (10/18/2011)

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION CHIEF NAMED AT TRUMAN VA

COLUMBIA, Mo. – **Steve Richardson** was selected recently as chief of the health administration service at the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital. In that role, he oversees and supervises the admissions and eligibility functions, health information management system and various administrative support activities.

A graduate of Columbia Rock Bridge High School, Richardson received a bachelor's degree in health services management from the University of Missouri in 1987. He earned a master's degree in business administration from Troy University in 1997 and a master's degree in

education leadership from George Mason University in 1998. Richardson served in the U.S. Navy from January 1989 until August 2009. During his military career, he served in a wide variety of health administration managerial roles including associate hospital administrator, program analyst/manager, clinic director, director of business operations and director of administration at nine different duty stations.

Richardson's VA career began in 2009 at Truman VA, where he served as a program analyst in VA's Decision Support System (DSS). DSS is a managerial cost accounting system that links actual operating expenses to health care services provided to patients. He is married and has two children.

Release Date: (10/13/2011)

CONNECTING DISABLED VETERANS WITH GOLF ENRICHES LIVES AT IOWA EVENT

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Nearly 240 Veterans with injuries and other disabilities, including U.S. Navy Veteran Raymond Walker of Jefferson City, are in Iowa participating in the National Veterans TEE (Training, Exposure, and Experience) Tournament, Sept. 12-15.

“Golf is not an easy game, especially for disabled Veterans who must concentrate on more than just their swing,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “The physical and mental challenges of golf and these other events helps these heroes restart and revitalize their lives.”

Sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and supported by more than 300 volunteers and numerous corporate sponsors, the National Veterans TEE Tournament provides Veterans with disabilities the opportunity to develop new skills and strengthen their confidence through adaptive golf. Activities also include bowling, horseback riding, kayaking and other recreational sports.

Veterans are golfing at various local courses, including Lake MacBride in Solon, Quail Creek in North Liberty, West Liberty Country Club, Iowa City Elks Country Club and Riverside Casino Blue Top Ridge golf courses. The bowling is taking place at Colonial Lanes in Iowa City.

The first tournament was held in 1994 in Nauvoo, Ill., originally as a local program for legally blind Veterans and drew 36 Veterans from six Midwestern states. In 1995, the event moved to the Iowa City area. The TEE Tournament was added by VA as a national rehabilitation program in 2008. The tournament has been expanded to include not only Veterans who are legally blind, but those with other disabilities.

Participation is open to U.S. military Veterans with visual impairments, amputations, traumatic brain injuries, multiple sclerosis, neuromuscular conditions, neurological conditions and spinal

cord injuries. The participants receive care at VA medical facilities across the nation, and many use VA's comprehensive visual impairment services.

VA is a health care leader in rehabilitation, with a commitment to serve all Veterans, men and women, past and present. The Tournament is hosted by the Iowa City VA Health Care System, with sponsorship support provided by Help Hospitalized Veterans, Veterans Canteen Service and many other organizations.

For more information about the National Veterans TEE Tournament visit the website at www.tee.va.gov.

Media Contact: Annie Tuttle, National Veterans TEE Tournament Public Affairs Coordinator (909) 953-1370 or Annie.Tuttle@va.gov.

Event Information: Kirt Sickels, National Veterans TEE Tournament Director (319) 358-5963 or Kirt.Sickels@va.gov.

Release Date: (9/15/2011)

TRUMAN VA HOSTS ANNUAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY CEREMONY

Who: Veterans and other interested persons

What: Annual National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Recognition Day Ceremony

When: Friday, September 16 at 2:00 p.m.

Where: Truman VA Auditorium (second floor)
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia, Missouri 65201

Why: At Truman VA, we pause to remember the sacrifices and service of those who were prisoners of war (POW), as well as those who are missing in action (MIA), and their families. Former prisoners of war residing in central Missouri have been invited to participate, and approximately 10-15 are expected to attend. Annette L. Sobel, M.D. M.S., University of Missouri administrator, will be the featured speaker.

For more information, contact L. Stephen Gaither, Public Affairs Officer, at 573-814-6308.

Release Date: (09/14/2011)

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED AT LAKE OF THE OZARKS VA CLINIC

Who: Veterans and other interested persons

What: Open House to learn more about VA health care benefits, tours of the facility, meet the clinic staff and hear from Veterans receiving health care at the clinic.

When: Wednesday, July 27
3:00 – 7:00 pm

Where: Lake of the Ozarks VA Clinic
940 Executive Drive
Osage Beach, Missouri

Why: Outreach staff from Truman VA will be available to answer questions and help interested Veterans complete VA health care enrollment applications.

We recommend that Veterans interested in enrolling into the VA healthcare system bring copies of their military discharge forms and health insurance cards with them.

The Lake of the Ozarks VA Clinic was relocated from Camdenton to Osage Beach last summer. Truman VA's first community clinic opened in 1998 at Fort Leonard Wood. Other clinics are located in Jefferson City, Kirksville, Mexico, Saint James and Sedalia. All of the community clinics offer primary care and mental health services. More than 33,000 Veterans are treated by Truman VA and its clinics.

For more information, contact L. Stephen Gaither, Public Affairs Officer, at 573-814-6308.

Release Date: (7/20/2011)

TRUMAN VA SEEKS INPUT FROM VETERANS FOR DESIGN OF NEW ICU

Open House to learn more about a proposed construction project to build a new Intensive Care Unit and to provide input for the planning stage.

Who: Veterans who receive health care services from Truman VA, particularly those who have received intensive care

What: Open House to learn more about a proposed construction project to build a new Intensive Care Unit and to provide input for the planning stage.

When: Friday, July 8
1:30 – 3:30 pm

Where: Truman VA Auditorium (second floor)
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia, Missouri

Why: Feedback from Veterans is important to assure that health care delivery and systems are patient-centered.

For more information or to provide input over the telephone, Veterans and/or interested family members should contact Tanya Lee, Systems Redesign Coordinator at (573) 814-6000 extension 54063.

Release Date: (06/29/2011)

VA Hosts Veteran Small Business Conference in New Orleans

Columbia, Mo. - The Department of Veterans Affairs will host the upcoming National Veterans Small Business Conference and Expo, Aug.15-18 in New Orleans. It will be the largest nationwide conference of its kind focused on helping Veteran-owned businesses succeed in winning federal contracts.

“Veteran-owned businesses provide world class services and expand employment opportunities for some of our Nation’s most highly-trained and motivated men and women,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “That is why VA is proud to host this annual conference to help better prepare these veteran-owned businesses to compete and win contracts with the federal government.”

The conference, scheduled for the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, will provide Veteran-Owned and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned small businesses of all sizes with an opportunity to learn, network, and market their businesses.

The conference will offer a variety of new training sessions on navigating the federal acquisition process, including finance, compliance, business development, marketing, strategy, contract management, human resources, technology, and program management. The conference track sessions will be targeted for a variety of businesses from new business owners just back from theater to well-established Veteran-owned businesses looking to expand opportunities or increase market share.

An open house has been added to the event to give Veterans from both the conference and local region the opportunity to experience the wide range of resources available to the Veteran community.

The National Veteran Small Business Conference is open to both government and non-government personnel. For more information and to register for the conference, go to

ELECTRONIC PERSONAL HEALTH RECORD TRAINING CLASS FOR VETERANS

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Missouri River Regional Library and the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital have partnered to provide Veterans an electronic personal health record training class on Wednesday, June 15 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the library.

My HealtheVet is VA's award winning personal health record where VA patients can refill VA prescriptions, store health information, track vital statistics and research their health. Veterans can register for a basic account by visiting www.MyHealth.va.gov. VA patients can upgrade their account by appearing in-person at a VA health care facility for authentication to participate in upgraded features such as secure messaging with their primary care provider.

Veterans in the Jefferson City area who need assistance registering for My HealtheVet or who do not have access to a computer are invited to attend this training.

"Our community libraries are a wonderful resource for Veterans. We have found many public libraries around Missouri offer computer access and computer classes for their patrons," says Andrea Wiggins, Truman VA's My HealtheVet Coordinator.

The training will be held at Missouri River Regional Library, 209 Adams Conference Room, Jefferson City. Fifteen computers are available. Those interested in attending are asked to call the My HealtheVet Coordinator at (573) 814-6233.

Release Date: (06/10/2011)

LOCAL VETERANS COMPETE IN 25TH NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

COLUMBIA, Mo. – More than 900 golden age U.S. military Veterans who served during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War will compete in the 25th National Veterans Golden Age Games in Honolulu, Hawaii on May 26-31. The Missouri contingent includes local Veterans Henri Jefferson, Bob Lee and Otha Williams who receive their health care at the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital in Columbia.

The Games, co-sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Canteen Service and Help Hospitalized Veterans, are hosted locally by the VA Pacific Island Healthcare System based in Honolulu. This is the largest sports and recreation event for military Veterans age 55

and older in the world. Veterans from across the United States, Puerto Rico and nearby islands are registered to compete this year.

Veterans will compete for gold, silver and bronze medals in 14 athletic events that include swimming, cycling, golf, shot-put, discus, 10-meter air rifle, table tennis, dominoes, shuffleboard, horseshoes, nine-ball, bowling, checkers and croquet. Each event has seven age categories: 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84 and 85 and older. Additionally, Veterans with visual impairments and those in wheelchairs will compete in unique categories based on their abilities.

World War II and other Veteran athletes will have opportunities to visit the Valor in the Pacific National Monument and attend the Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific-Punchbowl. This is the first time the annual event has been held in Honolulu.

For more information, contact Patricia Teran-Matthews at 808-433-0049 or patricia.teran-matthews@va.gov or Tonya Lobbestael at 843-709-3661 or tony.lobbestael@va.gov. The event's website is www.va.gov/opa/speceven/gag/index.asp.

Release Date: (05/26/2011)

VA to Take Applications for New Caregiver Program

COLUMBIA, Mo. – On Tuesday, staff at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published the interim final rule for implementing the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act 2010. This new rule will provide additional support to eligible post-9/11 Veterans who elect to receive their care in a home setting from a primary Family Caregiver.

"We know that many Veterans and their Family Caregivers have been waiting anxiously for the initiation of this program and we urge them to get their applications in as soon as possible," said Sallie Houser-Hanfelder, Director of the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital. "The new program builds on the foundation of Caregiver support now provided at VA and reflects what families and clinicians have long known - that Family Caregivers in a home environment can enhance the health and well-being of Veterans under VA care."

Additional services for primary Family Caregivers of eligible post-9/11 Veterans and Servicemembers include a stipend, mental health services and access to health care insurance, if they are not already entitled to care or services under a health care plan. Comprehensive Caregiver training and medical support are other key components of this program.

Veterans and their Family Caregivers can apply for the new services starting May 9 at www.caregiver.va.gov. Denise Heet, the Truman VA Caregiver Support Coordinator is also available to assist with the application process and direct Veterans and their Family Caregivers to more than two dozen other programs VA offers Family Caregivers for support.

"Providing support to Family Caregivers, who sacrifice so much to allow Veterans to remain at home surrounded by their loved ones, is very important to us at VA," said Heet. "We offer a range of Caregiver support services including training, counseling and respite care to ensure that our caregivers have the tools and support they need to continue in their care giving role."

Assistance and information on additional resources are also available to Family Caregivers through VA's National Caregiver Support Line, 1-877-222-VETS (8387). Veterans and Caregivers with questions about the new program can contact Heet at 573-814-6204.

For more information, contact L. Stephen Gaither, Public Affairs Officer, at 573-814-6308.

Release Date: (05/04/2011)

VA HEALTH CARE TO CONTINUE WITHOUT INTERRUPTION

COLUMBIA, Mo. – In the event of a government shutdown if Congress does not have an agreement in place to fund the federal government for the remainder of the current fiscal year, Veterans are advised that all VA health care facilities including the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital and its seven community based outpatient clinics will be open and available to provide health care services.

The VA health care system – Veterans Health Administration (VHA) – has an operating budget that was appropriated in advance and, therefore, has the money to fund services for the rest of fiscal year 2011. Other elements of the Department of Veterans Affairs could be affected by a shutdown. A summary of the potential impact is available on the Truman VA website at www.columbiamo.va.gov.

For more information about this event, contact L. Stephen Gaither, Public Affairs Officer, at 573-814-6308.

Release Date: (04/08/2011)

SECURE MESSAGING AT TRUMAN VA

COLUMBIA, Mo. - On December 14, the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital became the 49th VA medical center to successfully implement secure messaging, providing patients a secure way to communicate online with their healthcare team.

Secure messaging is the newest feature in [My HealtheVet](#), VA's online personal health record. Registered patients can track their health, document their military and family history and much

more. In addition, VA patients who are registered on My HealthVet can upgrade their account by completing a one-time [in-person authentication \(IPA\) process](#). The healthcare team has three business days to respond, so secure messaging is for non-urgent communication only. After patients register online and watch the brief orientation video, they may visit Truman VA or their community based outpatient clinics to complete the IPA process. Patients will need to bring their government issued identification. If the patient goes to Truman VA, they should visit the release of information office in room E002. If they visit a community based outpatient clinic, they should ask the check-in staff to assist them.

Patients who have an authenticated My HealthVet account are eligible to participate in secure messaging once it has been adopted by their primary care team. Locally, six primary care providers and their teams are testing this new tool before other teams adopt it later in 2011. Only patients of the six providers may participate at this time.

To participate, patients must first register on My HealthVet and complete in-person authentication. For more information about My HealthVet and secure messaging, local Veterans may contact Andrea Wiggins, the Truman VA program coordinator, at 573-814-6233.

For more information, contact L. Stephen Gaither, Public Affairs Officer, at 573-814-6308.

Release Date: (01/06/2011)
